REMONSTRANCE

TO THE

KING & PARLIAMENT

In the Behalf of

Many Decayed and Decaying

CITIZENS and FAMILIES of *London*,

Occasioned solely by the

Dreadful Fire

of That CITY,

AND

Some concurring Calamitous Events

of Providence since.

Jer. 8. 19. 21.

Have Pity upon me, have Pity upon me, O ye my Friends; for the Hand of God hath touched me.

Per PHILANTHROPUS PHILAGATHUS.

Printed at *London*, 1675.

Vol. 2

A NEW AND
TRUE
RELATION
OF
Dreadful Fire
of THAMES CITY,

Printed at London, 1675

AN HUMBLE

Remonſtrance

TO THE

KING and PARLIAMENT.

May it pleaſe your Majeſtie,

And the Right Honourable the Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parliament.

IN hopes there may be ſome Analogie in the ſympathie of the Politick, as in that of the Natural body: I have adventured to repreſent unto Your grave Wiſdom's conſideration, the languiſhing Condition of thoſe many Souls, that ſtill labour and groan under the Mortifying effects of that diſmal Fire of *London*, ſeconded with a War ſince; to the aggravation of their Loſſes, and depreſſion of their

endeavours for recovery; who being (as it were) Diſmembred, are rendred uſeleſs to the Nation, but might be yet very ſerviceable in their Generation, were ſome charitable thoughts contrived and exerciſed towards them. And ſeeing they are numerous who have thus ſuffered, many of whom have known how to abound, being reduced now to the other extreme of Want, ſeem Adequated for an higher Aſpect than that of particular Charitie, and are therefore more Adapt Objects for the Influences of the Head. The bleſſing of Almighty God having hitherto concurr'd with your Counſels for the Eſtabliſhment and Proſperity of the Crown, and procuring Peace to the Nation (as at this time) I doubt not but your Wiſdomes will conceive it an Act of Gratitude unto the ſame Almighty bounty, if you ſhall take thought of his diſtreſſed: the ſooner compaſſion may move you in this reſpect, may be the more acceptable Offering to Heaven, that chuſeth to do good, when moſt wanted: For that this alſo exceedeth the nature of a private concern, and may conduce to repleniſh that depopulated City with its own Members. Neither will the number of theſe Objects, and the meaſure of their ſupply, make the Work ſeem inſuperable to ſo great and grave a Council, who have already done ſuch Wonders, for the re-compoſing of Loyalty.

It is very lamentable to conſider how many of our Fellow-Members of the Nation and City have ſunk with their Loſſes into deſpair of Reſtoration; and have with their meanneſs of being, loſt even Life it ſelf; whilſt

whilſt others, weltring themſelves in Pleaſures, and prodigalizing their Superfluities with greater hazard, might, to their perpetual Renown, apply a part thereof towards the Reſurrection of their Brethren. Thoſe yet remaining, will be the more eaſily aſſiſted, who poſſibly may be reſerved for ſome eminent Service to their Country: For they are not contemptible, becauſe Diſciplined under Affliction; the beſt men having been Educated and made ſuch, in the School of Adverſity.

Moſt Worthy Senators, I need not have recourſe to Apocryphal Chronologies for Heroick Examples of this ſort: there being enough in Sacred Hiſtory of infallible Authority, attended with a multitude of incitements, for the encouragement of ſuch Pious Acts. A frequent Preſident hereof we may finde amongſt our ſelves, namely, when His Majeſty is graciouſly pleaſed to Grant Briefs upon particular Commiſerable Accidents. The ſame Grace which moves that, is more loudly call'd upon, and with more forcible Arguments, in a Common Calamity. The greater the Relief is which is required, the more Praiſeworthy and acceptable in the ſight of God and good Men, when afforded. Thoſe who have been wounded under a common Judgement, are therefore no more deſpicable, than a vanquiſhed Forlorn-Hope of a Battle, who have withſtood the ſhock intended the main Body; and if the Divine Wrath hath been ſuſpended by the ſufferings of ſome, for trial of the Vertues of thoſe who have eſcaped, perhaps as great Sinners (as the others) their Condition is worthy of

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the more pity and ſupply; and is not unlike that Juſtice uſed among Merchants, when in a Storm at Sea, one or more joynt Adventurer's Goods are thrown over-board, or otherwiſe damnified, to ſave the whole, they reduce that to an *Avarage*; whereby the Loſs is made tolerable, which might otherwiſe prove ruinous. The Veſſel of this Nation, hath for ſome years been conflicting and labouring under diſmal and heavy Judgements, as the *Plague*, *Fire*, and *Sword*, &c. and now at laſt ſhe is arrived (through Divine Bleſſing upon your prudent Counſels) into an Harbour of Peace, it is hoped you will now have opportunitie both to conſider and repair the Breaches that have been made upon her in theſe Tempeſts.

Moſt Noble Heroes, I dare not preſcribe to ſo great a Magazine of Wiſdom that inhabits you, waies and Methods, for the raiſing and proportionating ſuch Relief, as the Neceſſities of thoſe miſerably-ſindged Citizens calls for: not in the leaſt doubting, but if you ſhall pleaſe to look that way, the work will be eaſily effected; and the God of Mercies invoked and inclined to reward it. The viciſſitudes of Providence our eyes have witneſſed, doth ſufficiently certifie the mutability of Humane enjoyments; and ſhould diſpoſe us to conſider, others misfortunes may be ours; and how welcome in the like condition, a generous aſſiſtance would be to us, ſuch a ſympathie doth excite to do accordingly. The aforeſaid Sufferers are, in another reſpect, worthy Objects of your help and interpoſition, for the ſtopping of the mer-

cileſs

ciles fury of their Creditors upon them; whereof the Prisons about *London* are severe Testimonies; as if they had been Men markt out by Divine Vengeance, meerly to become a Prey to their insatiate Covetousnes, or a Sacrifice to their Cruelty; and this countenanced by the Law, because of Debt, without any reflection upon the inevitable Hand of God that disabled them. Could your Eyes be in every corner of this Nation, to behold the particular Oppressions of this nature, by one man to another, it would move your Bowels to contrive a remedy, that might wash off the reproach contracted upon our Christian profession for want of it. As works of Charitie and Mercy have the preference, and should be first espoused, so that your Wisdomes in a compassionate minde, will take into consideration the Sufferings of these Forlorn men, and thereupon select a Committee to inspect the quality of their Losses by the Fire and Contingencies, and of their present Griefs and Causes; without peradventure you will finde their Relief not difficult, if you shall please to recommend it to the Nation, either by way of a Voluntarie Contribution, or one or two Months Tax, according to the Exigency of the Work. It can onely thrive in your Hands; you may be a means to recover some Languishing Souls as well as Bodies; and the recompence of such works is unutterable. Some more worthy Pen may put you in minde of other matters fit for your enquiry, as the re-view of some Laws made a long time since; the reason whereof (circumstances of Time, Trade,

Trade and Temper considered) will not reach to our daies; as the Statute of Bankrupts, &c. not to omit the exorbitancy of some practises at Law, under which the Nation groans.

Most Worthy Patriots, I have with what brevity the Subject would dispense, cast my Offering at your Feet, hoping it may meet with [illegible] Acceptation and Success, as may redound to your immortal Glory and Happiness.

FINIS.